



BIG SKY LIBRARIES

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Commissioners Approve Library Reorganization, Proposed Budget Cuts

The Montana State Library (MSL) Commission, in a meeting in Helena on October 9 approved the Digital Library Initiative. This initiative takes advantage of new methods of integrating and providing information to create greater efficiency and provide superior service to Montana decision-makers, businesses, students and citizens. Implementation of the Digital Library initiative will also help MSL meet an annual \$410,000 budget cut as directed by the Governor's Office.

What is the Digital Library?

The MSL will merge and transform the Library Information Services department (LISD) and the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) to create the MSL Digital Library, as a reliable, easily accessible source for information.

The Digital Library will be a professionally catalogued, maintained, and supported collection of state documents, Montana-relevant federal documents, reference materials and periodicals, and appropriate state agency data. This collection will be maintained in an integrated system — all supported by professional librarians and information specialists, providing state of the art discovery, visualization and access tools, as guided by library law and policies.

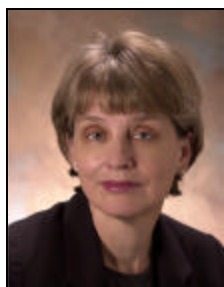
The Digital Library's holdings will be largely electronic in format and served through a broadly-known, state-

of-the-art Internet portal. Although most of its resources will be digital, the Library will also continue to house relevant printed reference materials not available in digital format.

The Digital Library will focus on meeting the information needs of Montana's decision-makers (including state and local agency managers and business leaders). In doing so, it will also ensure that all Montanans have access to information created by their government. A second focus will be to serve Montana libraries, which play a critical role in the state's information service network. As MSL transforms itself into a primarily digital library, it will be increasingly able to provide high quality Montana-relevant information, discovered remotely and delivered directly to users' desktops, no matter where they are.

The Digital Library will not duplicate collections found in other libraries. It will complement DiscoveringMontana.com and state agency libraries by providing value-added organization, presentation, and archival of important state documents and electronic information. It will partner with the Department of Administration's Information Technology Services Division (ITSD), using Montana's strong information technology infrastructure to deliver information resources and services.

(Cuts — Continued on page 3)



Karen Strege
State Librarian



"...if cuts in State Funding will harm your services, let your community know.."

A Message From The State Librarian

In response to requests by the Governor's office to reduce its proposed budget for the fiscal years 2004 and 2005, the Commission has cut its proposed budget by about \$410,000 each year.

These cuts will mean less for local libraries and less services from the State Library. Specifically, the Commission has made these approximate reductions in programs funded by the General Fund and the Coal Severance Tax.

\$127,000	Interlibrary Loan reimbursements
\$133,000	In-state library operations due to the merger of NRIS and the Library Department
\$97,200	Federation funding
\$53,800	State Library materials

These reductions will be included in the Governor's executive budget, scheduled for release on November 15th. If approval by the Legislature, the cuts will become effective July 1, 2003.

When I attended area and statewide meetings this fall, many librarians and trustees asked me what they could do to help. This simple question has many answers: The first is to keep providing quality services to your community. Libraries in Montana enjoy a great deal of

State support because of your efforts to provide excellent services. Keep on doing so, and don't forget to tell others about the libraries. Connect the dots between library services and higher reading levels for children; between a healthy cultural community and the library; between the development and continuing health of small business and library services.

Next, if cuts in State funding will harm your services, let your community know about it in a factual and reasonable manner. In particular, bring your legislators inside your library to show them your services and tell them of any potential harm from reductions in State funding. Remember that your legislators are facing a session in which all State programs are being threatened — they need to know that libraries are a part of the web of important services their communities cannot do without.

As you can imagine, State Library staff have struggled to make these recommendations to the Commission and, in turn, the Commission has struggled to make these decisions knowing full well their potential impacts on our communities. We all feel privileged to work with you and appreciate your support during the good times, as well as these days that have quite a different tone.

2002 Collection Management Honor Roll Reminder

If you are planning to apply for the 2002 Collection Management Honor Roll, a current and updated collection management policy must be on file at the Montana State Library by January 31, 2003. If you are not sure of the status of your library's policy, please contact Sue Jackson at MSL at 1-800-338-5087 or sujackson@state.mt.us.

(Cuts — continued from page 1)

The Library's holdings will include:

- ♦ State and federal documents in electronic format
- ♦ State documents in hard-copy format
- ♦ Access to selected full-text periodicals of particular importance to Montana decision-makers
- ♦ Comprehensive sets of statewide geospatial data layers and selected related tabular data
- ♦ An index of electronic databases maintained by state agencies
- ♦ Access to a diverse spectrum of electronic books, periodicals, maps, and reference materials relevant to Montana

The Digital Library staff will focus on systematically assembling, organizing, and ensuring the quality and integrating these resources. The staff will also concentrate on developing user-friendly tools for accessing and displaying information via the Internet. They will also train users in locating, visualizing, and obtaining information with these tools, and will assist state agencies by providing direct access to their information via the Internet. The Library ensures that information can be easily located and used by both the technologically savvy user and the

person unskilled in computer use. The Library will also offer individual assistance and reference services via on-line consultations, telephone, and walk-in services.

Meeting the budget

MSL will realize immediate cost savings by eliminating materials not germane to its new digital library role, and by reducing the number of staff required to support its former paper-based collection and services. It is estimated that this will save \$133,000 yearly.

In addition to merger-related savings, MSL has also proposed the following budget reductions to meet the Governor's requirements for fiscal years 2004 and 2005:

\$127,000	Interlibrary Loan reimbursements
\$97,000	Federation funding
\$53,800	State Library materials

These reductions will be included in the Governor's executive budget, scheduled for release on November 15th. If approved by the Legislature, these cuts will be effective on July 1, 2003.

Watch for updates on both the reorganization and budget processes via Wired MT and in future issues of Big Sky Libraries.



"MSL will realize immediate cost savings by eliminating materials not germane to its new digital library role and by reducing the number of staff required to support its former paper-based collection and services."

MSL Hosts Successful Trustee Workshops

Montana State Library hosted two library trustee workshops in October featuring consultant Pat Wagner of Pattern Research in Denver. A total of 73 public library trustees, directors and Friends members participated.

Pat's programs featured ways to build peer-based, working relationships with decision-makers in the library community; the differences in the duties of the board, the director, and the staff; and ways to guard against micro-management. She presented workable models for board governance and strategic planning for libraries. In addition to

Pat's presentation, workshop participants heard from MSL staff about Montana's new district law, recent budget cuts, and how to use the new trustee handbook.

These workshops were funded by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant funds which are administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Montana State Library Commission.



Consultant Pat Wagner of Denver-based Pattern Research helps public library trustees work together better at an October trustee training in Billings.

LISD Trains State Web Developers to Metatag



"A growing number of state agency publications are born and exist only in a digital format."

Suzy Holt and Jim Kammerer of the MSL Library and Information Services Division conducted software training for web developers from eight state agencies in early October. Workshop attendees learned how to metatag, or describe, their web pages using Metabrowser, a cataloging tool for Microsoft Windows.

This Metabrowser software training is a critical step for creating the Government Information Locator Service (GILS), which is a subject catalog of state agency publications on the web. The GILS project called "**Find-It! Montana**" is also being developed by other state libraries as a response to the public's need for easy, electronic access to government information and services.

"What I like most is Meta-browser's ability to simultaneously view both the web page and the imbedded metadata fields," commented one participant. Attendees also appreciated the software's ability to insert the metadata directly into the web page. Web developers began to create their own agency templates with default values for the URL, title, date, and author fields that stay constant across an agency website. Controlled subject fields were additional metatags that web developers assigned to their web pages. The top-level subject fields conform to conventions used by other state libraries, thus opening up the possibility for future interoperability. The secondary and tertiary subject levels

within **Find-It! Montana** will reflect Montana's specific history, culture, geography, etc.

The Metabrowser software training is another instance of the Montana State Library partnering with other state agencies to add to and index a growing catalog of electronic state documents, forms, laws, public records, data files, graphics, maps, etc. The metatags become the critical access points with which to search the **Find-It! Montana** catalog.

LISD Client Services Supervisor Suzy Holt said, "State agencies are interested and willing participants because they recognize that enhanced web page descriptions help them better manage their information. Montanans benefit, too, through their increased success in finding government information without having to memorize state agency organizational charts where the information sought may reside."

Lastly, the Metabrowser workshop contributes to a state agency's compliance of MCA 22-1-213, which requires submission of four copies of each of its publications for record and depository purposes. A growing number of state agency publications are born and exist only in a digital format. Metatags will be the means by which these publications are accessed.

For more information, contact Suzy Holt at 444-5374 or Jim Kammerer at 444-5432.

Montana Library Day Set for January 14

Montana Library Day, a celebration of Montana libraries, will be on Tuesday, January 14 at the Montana State Library in Helena.

Sponsored by the Bibliographical Center for Research, the Montana Library Association, the Montana Association for the Blind, and the Nature Conservancy, the

celebration will begin at 5:00 pm. Please plan to join your legislators and other library supporters for a BBQ dinner, entertainment by Helena's own Queen City Belles, and quick-draw caricatures.

For more information, contact Diane Gunderson at (406) 444-5398 or at dgunderson@state.mt.us.

NRIS to Host GIS Day Events

MSL's Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) program will demonstrate the importance of geography and maps to our everyday lives by conducting interactive presentations, a seminar, and an open house on GIS Day 2002, November 20th. All activities will take place at the State Library in Helena from 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm on that day.

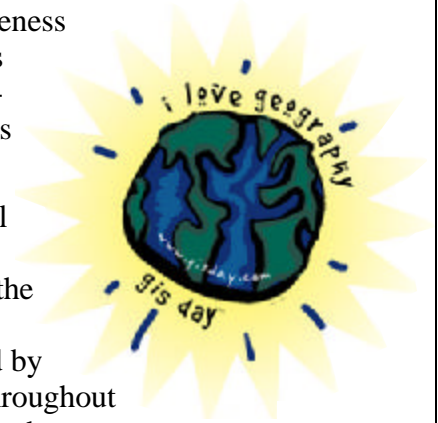
An NRIS Seminar, "Where on Earth is My Water Right?" is set for 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The GIS Day Open House, which offers attendees the opportunity to sit in on interactive presentations, follows from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm. NRIS invites its partners in the library community, GIS community, government, and the public to attend.

GIS Day 2002 is a global event that celebrates geographic information sys-

tems (GIS), the technology that uses geography to change the world. It will be held as part of Geography Awareness Week (November 18–24), and is principally sponsored by the National Geographic Society and its partners.

GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing objects and events. It combines the power of a database with the visualization capabilities offered by maps. GIS technology is used throughout the world to solve problems in such areas as land use and business efficiency.

For more information, contact Anastasia Burton, MSL Communications and Marketing Coordinator, at 444-5357 or at aburton@state.mt.us



TBL Announces Hiring of Diane Gunderson

We are pleased to announce that on July 8 Diane Gunderson was hired as the Coordinator of Volunteers for MSL, as well as the Director of the Recording Program in the Talking Book Library of MSL. She will coordinate the work of over 100 volunteers (most of whom are in TBL), set up and train volunteers on digital recordings, and ensure that MSL staff have the level and quality of volunteer support they need.

Diane joined the State Law Library staff in 1987 to work as the administrative assistant for the Montana Faxnet Project. Nearly two years later, she joined the Library Development Program at the Montana State Library and became the Data Coordinator for the Library Development Program at MSL. She was responsible for the Montana Library Directory, Public Library Statistical Report(s), library files,

and the Certification Program, and also served as Montana's national representative for the Federal/State Cooperative System (FSCS).

Christie Briggs, TBL Regional Librarian, said, "Volunteers and staff alike will benefit from Diane's skills, knowledge and abilities, as well as her caring, loyal, and hard working work ethic. She has already proven to be a valuable team member in TBL and has offered her statistical expertise to several areas of TBL."

Diane was born and raised in Chester. Diane's personal interests include her family, church activities (she has a great singing voice); and her favorite hobby of crafting fantastic pendants from pieces of jewelry, old watch parts and buttons, always customizing a pendant for the intended wearer.



**Diane Gunderson,
Volunteer Coordinator**



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Karen Strege, State Librarian

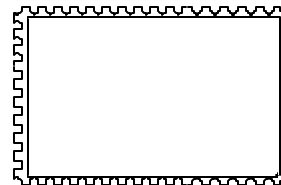
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Please send articles and other information to be included in this newsletter to:

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
<http://msl.state.mt.us>

Spotlight: James Kammerer, State Publications Center Coordinator

Jim Kammerer joined the Montana State Library staff in June, as the State Publication Center Coordinator. Since graduating from Carroll College in 1984, Jim has maintained "dual citizenship" in Montana and Texas. "They have similar spirit of independence, neighborliness, Western dialect, and healthy skepticism of government," Jim notes. His desire for proximity to family, reconnecting with boyhood roots, and a more arid climate led him to settle back in Helena.

Jim recently graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a master of library and information science degree. He had been working as a records and archives analyst at International SEMATECH (ISMT), a consortium of semiconductor manufacturers that does pre-competitive research and operates a non-commercial manufacturing facility for processing semiconductor wafers.

At the ISMT records and archives center, he was responsible for managing time-sensitive, confidential information and delivering it to anxious engineers.

Here at MSL, Jim looks forward to publishing and building the collection of state government documents. Jim enjoys soccer, foreign movies, permaculture,

and swimming. His professional interests include web usability and government information policy.



James Kammerer
State Publications Center
Coordinator